

of 1895 to the writing of "Kome." As he had not "been able to remain very long in the Eternal City, Madame Zola returned thither to collect further information on various points, and a perfect mountain of documents at last encompassed the struggling novelist, who had no little difficulty in shaping his course. In December, 1895, the work began to appear as *afeuilleton* in "Le Journal," the organ of Zola's friend, M. Fernand Xau, and about the same time an English translation was issued by various provincial and colonial journals, Yizetelly having to perform a *tour de force* in order to ensure this early publication. In the case of "Lourdes" he had been assisted by his personal knowledge of the spot, and a similar knowledge helped him with "Rome/'the actual translation of which had to be made in about nine "weeks in order to meet commercial requirements. That little fact will serve to illustrate the remarks made in a previous chapter concerning the imperfection of the translations issued under the conditions which nowa-days prevail in the publishing world.

When " Borne " appeared as a volume early in the spring of 1896,¹ M. Gaston Descharnps, writing in "Le Temps," roundly accused Zola of plagiarism, and it is certain that here and there "Borne" contained sentences taken from Krmin Didot's publication, " Le Vatican," and Gaston Bois-sier's " Promenades archdologiques/' Zola, on

being accused,
replied in "Le Eigaró" to the effect that when
he was writ-
ing a book he invariably consulted every
available work

i "Borne," Paris, Charpentier and Fasqttelle, 1896,
ISino, 751 pages.
One hundredth thousand on sale in 1898 ; one hundred
and sixth thousand
in 1903. In the case of this "book and subsequent ones,
the sales from 1897
onward were lately affected by the unpopularity which Zola
reaped from his
partMpatioa in file Dreyfus case.